

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-24. (canceled)

25. (currently amended) An apparatus system for facilitating the management of costs associated with performing a plurality of processes to manufacture, service and/or maintain an aerospace system incorporating a plurality of physical components, the apparatus system comprising a processor and memory configured to: a processor, memory, and a user interface, the processor configured with the memory to execute processor-executable instructions to perform the following:

represent in said memory each process as a set of performable operations;

associate each operation with a cost of performing the operation;

receive via said user interface a [[user]] selection of an operation performable in a first of the processes;

determine whether the selected operation is a duplicate of another operation performable in the first process and/or performable in a second of the processes; and

based on the determination, [[notify the user]] issue a notification via the user interface as to a possible reduction of costs by elimination of a duplicate performance of the selected operation;

the processor and memory configured to identify, from a plurality of aerospace work and/or test station locations at which the plurality of processes are performed and between which at least part of the aerospace system is moved, one or more station locations for performing the selected operation.

26. (currently amended) The apparatus system of claim 25, wherein the processor and memory are configured to:

identify one or more operations dependent on performance of the selected operation; and

[[notify the user]] issue a notification via the user interface as to costs associated with the identified dependent operations.

27. (currently amended) The apparatus system of claim 25, wherein the processor and memory are configured to:

determine whether an operation is a mandatory operation performable downstream of the selected operation or a permissive operation that need not be performed; and

based on the determining, [[notify the user]] issue a notification via the user interface as to costs associated with the mandatory operation.

28. (currently amended) The apparatus system of claim 25, wherein the processor and memory are configured to modify a representation of one or more of the processes based on user input.

29. (currently amended) The apparatus system of claim 25, wherein the processor and memory are configured to combine representations of two or more processes based on user input.

30. (currently amended) The apparatus system of claim 25, wherein the aerospace system comprises an aerospace vehicle.

31. (canceled)

32. (currently amended) The apparatus system of claim 25, wherein the processor and memory are configured to represent each process as a set of sequential operations and to display a list of operations performable after the selected operation without incurring cost beyond any cost of the operations performable after the selected operation.

33. (canceled)

38. (currently amended) A processor-performed method of facilitating the management of costs associated with performing a plurality of processes to manufacture, service and/or maintain an aerospace system incorporating a plurality of physical components, the method performed by a processor configured with memory and a user interface, the method comprising:

the processor representing in the memory each process as a set of sequential operations;

the processor receiving from a user via the user interface a selection of one of the operations of a first of the processes;

the processor determining whether the first process is a first sub-process of a second process, and whether the selected operation is duplicated in a second sub-process of the second process; [[and]]

based on the determining, the processor [[notifying the user]] issuing a notification via the user interface as to a feasibility of combining performances of the sub-processes; and

the processor identifying, from a plurality of aerospace work and/or test station locations at which the plurality of processes are performed and between which at least part of the aerospace system is moved, one or more station locations for performing the selected operation.

39. (currently amended) The method of claim 38, further comprising:

the processor identifying one or more operations dependent on performance of the selected operation; and

the processor notifying the user as to costs associated with the identified dependent operations.

40. (currently amended) The method of claim 38, further comprising:

the processor determining whether an operation is a mandatory operation performable downstream of the selected operation or a permissive operation that need not be performed; and

based on the determining, the processor notifying the user as to costs associated with the mandatory operation.

41. (currently amended) The method of claim 38, further comprising the processor modifying a representation of one or more of the processes based on user input.

42. (currently amended) The method of claim 38, further comprising the processor combining representations of two or more processes based on user input.

43. (previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the aerospace system comprises an aerospace vehicle.

44. (canceled)